

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 141720Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1836

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VT, PL

SUBJECT: OLSZOWSKI'S VATICAN VISIT

REF: WARSAW 5844

1. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS OLSZOWSKI VISIT WITH ANYONE AT VATICAN. ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO HOLY SEE ANXIOUSLY SEEKING DETAILS OF VISIT BUT EVERYONE HAS TO DATE ENCOUNTERED TOTAL BLACKOUT. IN UNUSUAL STEP, ARCHBISHOP BENELLI HAS EVEN CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK HIS THURSDAY MORNING OPEN HOUSE FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION ACCREDITED TO VATICAN. ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI ANNOUNCED THAT HE RECEIVING NO ONE THIS WEEK AND HIS DEPUTY, MSGR. SILVESTRINI, HAS DEPARTED FOR GENEVA TO ATTEND CSCE TALKS. VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR POLAND ALSO CONVENIENTLY UNAVAILABLE.

2. ONE RELIABLE VATICAN SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT POPE OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED OVER HIS TALKS WITH OLSZOWSKI AND HE EXPRESSED THIS SATISFACTION TO BISHOP DABROWSKI WHOM HE SAW ON SAME DAY. VATICAN WATCHERS AND DIPLOMATS SEEM GENUINELY CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING MAY BE MOVING IN POLISH-VATICAN RELATIONS AND ALL SUSPECT THAT TOP VATICAN LEADERSHIP IS PRESENTLY CLOSETED WITH DABROWSKI TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE WAYS OF RESPONDING TO WHAT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OLSZOWSKI'S EXPRESSIONS OF GOP WILLINGNESS TO DEVELOP
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SOME FORM OF INSTITUTIONALIZED TIES. GIVEN RECENT HISTORY

VATICAN-POLISH RELATIONS, MOST OBSERVERS DOUBTFUL THAT ANYTHING LIKE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE IN OFFING, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT WELL KNOWN THAT POLISH EPISCOPATE OPPOSES SUCH STEP. CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI WILL ARRIVE ROME AT WEEK'S END AND IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT VATICAN PREPARING VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

3. WE HAVE APPOINTMENT TOMORROW WITH USUALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE POLISH SOURCE AND EXPECT TO HAVE APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK AT LATEST WITH CASAROLI. WILL REPORT FULLER DETAILS OF OLSZOWSKI VISIT AND ITS AFTERMATH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE ARE SENDING INFORMATION ON ITALIAN PORTION OF OLSZOWSKI VISIT ALTHOUGH, FROM PRESS INDICATIONS, RESULTS WERE SECONDARY TO VATICAN VISIT. RESPONSIBLE FONOFF OFFICIAL IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE TOWARD END OF THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME12573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731134/aaaaaywq.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: WARSAW 5844
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OLSZOWSKI'S VATICAN VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VT, PL, (OLSZOWSKI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005